

Multi-faith Chaplaincy Information

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Montreal, Quebec, Canada

At the Concordia Multi-faith Chaplaincy

I find a place:

- *that fosters and creates community*
- *where I can grow in the areas of faith and spirituality, moral and ethical questions, human values and social issues*
- *that respects my religious traditions*
- *that makes explicit the presence and holiness of God in the University community*
- *that builds bridges*
- *that provides a personal caring presence*

What I'd like you to know as my instructor:

I turn to you to manifest the values of respect and community that Concordia University promotes. Every time you are understanding and appreciative of the challenges I face, every time you speak up to make the classroom a safe, mindful and respectful place, I gain.

While I'm attending Concordia, I am not only growing in knowledge and skill, I am also growing spiritually. This growth is expressed through the religious tradition I belong to or through a spiritual search that is very important to me. Whatever my position is, I would like you to be sensitive to this spiritual dimension when I am in your class, as I should be of yours. One way we can do this is not to generalize from personal experience and to review some of the materials you use in your class to make sure that it is respectful of all religious traditions and spiritual paths. Another way is to be aware of the variety of programs that are conducted by and through the Multi-faith Chaplaincy.

Who are the Chaplains:

- Daryl Lynn Ross - University Chaplain
- Rev. Ellie Hummel - Ecumenical Christian Chaplain
- Rev. Raymond Lafontaine - Roman Catholic Chaplain

Multi-faith Associate Chaplains:

- Michelina Bertone, SSA (Roman Catholic)
- Imam Salam Elmenyawli (Muslim)
- Manjit Singh (Sikh)
- Dr. T. S. Rukmani (Hindu)
- Rabbi Shlomo Mann (Jewish)
- Rev. John Tkachuk (Eastern Orthodox)
- Myokyo Judith MacLean (Zen Buddhist)
- Rev. Ray Drennan (Unitarian)

Here are examples of the services and programs offered through Multi-faith Chaplaincy:
(For exact listing, check our publication "First Word".)

The Peer Support Program

Trained students run a drop-in center for listening, information and referral.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

A weekly vegan meal is provided for students for a nominal one to two dollar donation. It provides a nutritional and community building service. In 2002, it distributed 2400 meals.

The Student Emergency Food Fund

This provides food to needy students. During 2001, \$30,000 in food vouchers were distributed.

Outreach Experience

Student volunteers work with elderly, sick, young and homeless people.

Women in the Bible

An exploration of women in the Bible from a Christian – feminist perspective.

The Lunch Bunch

Chaplains and students meet together informally in a community building lunch program.

Inter-faith Meditation

Day Retreats

A day away planned by a chaplain with students. A day to explore the sacred in yourself and the community.

Experiencing the Sacred in Your Everyday Life

A weekly workshop involving visualization and meditation on Christian scriptures.

Dreams on Our Journey to Wholeness

A seven week workshop to learn or deepen skills to tend and understand one's dreams.

Buddhist Meditation

Weekly sessions of meditation instruction and sitting.

Buddhist Retreats

Students of Dharma : Discussions of Buddhist practice.

Monastic Retreat

Held at a Cistercian Monastery each year, students immerse themselves in the monastic lifestyle for a brief period.

Towards a spirituality of non-violence

Weekly meeting exploring and deepening an understanding of Jesus of Nazareth's message of non-violence in relation to oneself, others and the Earth.

Habitat for Humanity

Support for students who have established a Habitat for Humanity Chapter at Concordia.

Video Divina

A three-evening program, where students view and reflect on the spiritual and ethical themes of popular films.

Multi-faith Convocation Celebration

This event involves the whole chaplaincy team and several multi-faith associates. It is an opportunity for students with their families to celebrate convocation in a spiritual way.

Faith Community specific programs

Meetings on Fridays with Muslim students, biweekly program for Sikh students, meeting with Jewish students, weekday and Sunday Catholic services. Speakers and panel discussions on spiritual, religious and ethical issues.

I also am...

... a single mom and a full time student. I live on a very tight budget. My daughter and I first went to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard to get a nutritious meal for a dollar and to go out once a week. There I found other single parents struggling with the same issues I was. In time, we set up a babysitting coop. This allowed me more time to study without weighing on my budget. I also found

great support that helped me balance studying and raising my kid. It helped me to go on with my degree.

...a young person from a traditional family living alone for the first time. I am trying to figure out what I believe is right and wrong, and what kind of faith I have. I am sometimes confused when values expressed in class seem to contradict my religious upbringing. Sometimes I feel out of synch with my friends. Talking to a chaplain helps me trust myself as I work through these difficulties.

... from a small rural town in Manitoba. Montreal is so big and different from what I know. I really am excited about being here and doing what I want to do. But during my first semester, I felt lost and wondered if I was doing the right thing. I didn't want to call home and worry my family. I just needed to talk. So I went to the Peer Support Program. It was great! A student just like me listened and suggested a few things I could do to find my way and adjust. It made going on with studying a lot easier. Now I'm part of the Peer Support Program and I help others who feel just like I did when I started.

... on a very tight budget and depend on a cheque every month to make ends meet. During winter when the heating bills shoot up, or when it's time to buy books at the beginning of a semester, sometimes I have no money left for food. In those times I've gone to the chaplaincy to get food vouchers. Thanks to that, I could make it through and go on with studying.

... doing well in my studies. I am also manic-depressive. When I feel depressed, I go to see one of the chaplains. He always listens. It is a comforting and safe place for me to go. It helps me go on.

... a part-time student. I have been for the last eight years. If all goes well, I'll be done in a year and a half. I've now gotten used to being the "voice of experience" in the classroom. I'm 43, married, with two kids and a full time job. Studying is really important to

me. I'm really grateful to the instructors who appreciate and understand the challenge of balancing all those parts of my life and value my experience.

... grieving. I've recently lost a parent. One of my instructors suggested that I get in touch with the chaplaincy to get support during this time. I'm glad he did. This support has been really important to me and helped me to keep going with my studies.

... just coming out. In one of my classes, the professor asked us to give a personal interpretation of a poem. I interpreted it from a gay perspective. I was really worried and nervous about how it would be considered in class. But the instructor was really open and respectful of a variety of perspectives, including mine. I really felt appreciated. It was really motivating.

Good resources:

<http://www.diversityweb.org/digest/Sp99/religious.html>

<http://pages.ca.inter.net/~csrm/>
(Nouveau Dialogue)

www.beliefnet.com

www.religioustolerance.org

Multi-faith Chaplaincy

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